

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 were previously withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 are rejected.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10-11, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al., (hereinafter “Yamaguchi”) US Pat. 5,243,482. Claims 2, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi, US Pat. 5,243,482 in view of Coon, US Publ. No. 2001/0013993.

Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least “[a] suspension assembly, comprising ... a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads” (*e.g.*, as described in claim 1).

The Office Action asserts Yamaguchi discloses the relevant limitations, citing Figures 1, 3 and 5 generally, and column 7, lines 28-30. *See* Office Action dated 9/22/2008, paragraph 2. Applicants disagree.

Figure 1 of Yamaguchi is a partial cross-sectional view of a magnetic head support mechanism; it does not include references to pads of any sort.

Figure 3 describes, among other things, a slider embodiment 1 comprising finger portions 52, central tongue portion 53, load projection 54 and stepped portion 57. It does not describe at least a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads.

Figure 5 describes another view of a slider embodiment wherein the finger portion 52 is connected to step member 55 and coupling member 56. None of these elements describe at least the relevant limitations discussed above at all. Specifically, the Office Action's current rejection has failed to cite at least 1) to a surface having a set of connecting pads and 2) to a slider fixture with portions of at least two surfaces of a slider other than a surface facing a data storage medium and a surface having the set of connecting pads (*e.g.*, as described in claim 1). Indeed, cited Figure 5 does not include reference to any pads at all, and the Office Action does not cite to any purported connecting pads either. Applicants submit the Yamaguchi reference, including cited Figures 1, 3 and 5, fails to describe at least the relevant limitations.

Similarly, Figures 2, 4, and 6 of Yamaguchi fail to teach or suggest the relevant limitations as described in claim 1 as well. For example, Figures 4 and 6 disclose slider 1, magnetic head 2, and "slider floating surface" 10; they do not teach or suggest at least a slider fixture to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium and other than a surface having a set of connecting pads.

Coon fails to make up for the deficiencies of Yamaguchi. Specifically, Coon is directed to a flexure slider bonding system; it does not teach or suggest at least the relevant limitations of claim 1 discussed above.

Therefore, since the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1, the current §102 rejections are lacking and should be withdrawn. Applicants submit independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are allowable for at least the reasons described above. Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-17 are allowable for depending from allowable base claims.

The Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A

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Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2008

Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7950 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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